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28 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

THROUGH: Chief, Language and Area School
Chief, Operations SchoolSUBJECT: Area Briefing for Unofficial Cover Personnel and
their Adult Dependents

1. OTR recently has forwarded to DD/P a memorandum suggesting that, within current capabilities of the Language and Area School, unofficial cover personnel and their adult dependents receive area orientation similar to that now provided by the LAS AAO courses to official cover personnel and their adult dependents. This proposed extension of AAO-type services would place special emphasis on elements of "overseas effectiveness" as they apply particularly to the needs of our people under unofficial cover.

2. Mr. [] has concurred in this proposal, but in the light of Office of Security recommendations, OTR has proposed further that this training not be attempted in LAS premises in [], for reasons of cover and security. Rather, it has been suggested that the unofficial cover people be trained in covert training or other approved, suitable safe sites.

3. Due to the small size of its instructor staff (four), LAS/Area capabilities are quite limited. With a staff of three, they have just been able to handle the current official-cover workload. This capability might be supplemented, however, by employing other area-experienced OTR instructors using LAS/Area area training doctrine and materials. Most Operations School instructors have had overseas experience, but for this purpose the instructors assigned to Covert Training Branch seem to be in the best position to assist in area orientation. In their case, area orientation--if requested by the area division or by Central Cover--

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would be but a short extension of covert training. In fact, some aspects of "overseas effectiveness" could well be worked into other aspects of covert training.

4. It is not suggested that Covert Training take over this area briefing chore. Rather, it would be a cooperative effort:

a. Area training for unofficial cover people probably should be requested (in most cases, anyway) through Chief, Covert Training, since (1) covert training sites may be used and (2) area training should be scheduled in close coordination with other covert training.

b. LAS/Area would develop and supply all area briefing and orientation material to be used in this covert area training.

c. If the Covert Training instructor has the appropriate area, country, or regional background, he would conduct the area orientation. If not, an LAS/Area instructor would do it. In each case, the orientation should be preceded by required reading of selected materials supplied by LAS. All live area instruction is subject to OTR capability at any given time. The area materials represent our minimum support.

d. Area Division and/or Cover Division "case officers" should be encouraged to attend area briefing sessions.

5. In view of the "overseas effectiveness" aspects of these orientations it is also urged that Covert Training instructors who may take part in the area training first take the Introduction to Overseas Effectiveness course. At the very least, they should read the course reading materials and be thoroughly briefed on IOE and AAQ by the Chief, LAS and Chief, Area Training.

6. It is believed that area orientation closely associated with covert "tradecraft" training and cover preparation will be very effective and well received. In cases where the cover organization provides its overseas employees with overseas and area orientation, our unofficial cover personnel should by all means take advantage of this

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training. Our training should be supplemental to it, and pay particular heed to the additional problems inherent in carrying out our work under unofficial cover conditions.

7. Your reactions and comments are invited.

SIGNED


Chief, Plans and Policy Staff

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OTR/PPS .:nld (28 Mar 61)

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